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The WOOL SITUATION

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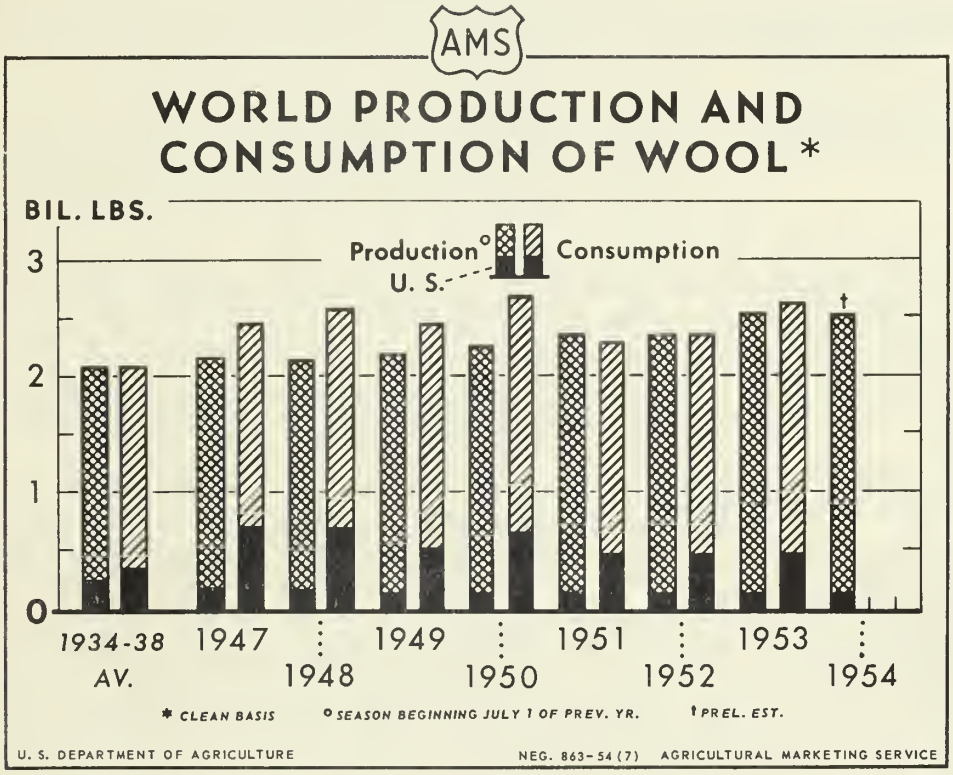

World production of wool reached a wartime peak in 1941 but declined thereafter until 1947. Output has increased each year since then. The estimate for the 1953-54 season is over one-fifth larger than the prewar average. Prospects are for a slight further increase during 1954-55.

The wartime accumulation of wool was consumed during 1946-50. World consumption during 1950 was a record high and almost one-fifth in excess of production. During 1951 and 1952, consumption was slightly below production, but during the following year it exceeded production and was only 3 percent below 1950.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part 1 - Prices

Item	Unit	1953 Apr.	1953 May	1953 June	1953 July	1954 Apr.	1954 May	1954 June	1954 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	54.1	55.7	56.0	54.8	53.6	54.3	55.2	55.0	100
Parity price	Cents per pound	58.6	58.6	57.8	58.4	59.1	59.4	58.9	58.5	100
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	92	95	97	94	91	91	94	94	
Boston market prices, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic wool										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	173.7	175.2	174.8	172.5	168.8	173.1	176.7	175.6	102
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	151.5	149.5	152.5	152.5	157.5	157.5	105
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	131.5	132.0	132.2	127.2	131.2	135.0	135.0	102
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	114.2	117.9	122.0	122.3	100
Low 1/4 blood	do.	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	103.1	109.0	110.0	107
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	100.0	103
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	175.3	178.2	178.0	177.9	172.5	174.8	181.4	181.0	102
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	143.8	145.8	143.5	144.5	141.0	147.6	149.0	149.5	103
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.1	119.4	119.9	118.9	116.0	118.4	118.7	116.6	98
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	111.7	112.1	112.8	111.0	110.0	112.5	112.8	113.5	102
Low 1/4 blood	do.	105.8	106.0	106.0	106.0	102.5	103.0	107.7	108.5	102
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	103
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	177.5	183.1	185.0	182.5	175.9	177.4	185.0	185.0	101
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	162.5	167.5	168.8	167.5	162.5	163.1	170.0	170.0	101
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	143.0	143.0	150.1	152.5	152.5	152.5	160.0	160.0	105
Imported wool, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	97
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.8	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	97
64's combing	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	162.5	163.8	167.5	167.5	97
58's, 60's combing	do.	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	142.5	143.8	147.5	147.5	100
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	127.0	127.0	127.0	125.5	124.4	131.2	132.5	132.5	106
1's (56's)	do.	103.0	103.0	104.2	112.5	115.6	122.2	122.5	122.5	109
2's (50's)	do.	96.5	96.5	96.5	104.8	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	101
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	84.5	84.5	84.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	100
4's (44's)	do.	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.2	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	100
5's (40's)	do.	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.2	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	100
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	33.0	33.4	33.2	33.4	34.2	34.4	34.2	34.4	103
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	36.8	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	38.7	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	100
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	---	170.0	170.0	170.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	88
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	180.0	180.0	180.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	89
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	79
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	76
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ AMS Boston market reports.
2/ Average of 10 markets.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ Not available.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 10, 1954

SUMMARY

Wool prices in world markets advanced gradually during the closing months of the Australian selling season ending in June, but prices declined slightly at the July London auctions. World wool consumption in the first quarter of this year, though moderately below the high level of early 1953, was at an annual rate about equal to estimated production during the 1953-54 season. Indications are that the annual rate during the second quarter was the same as or slightly higher than that of the first quarter.

Prospects are for a slight increase in world wool production during the 1954-55 season. Total stocks probably are not greatly different from a year ago.

Use of apparel wool by mills in the United States increased gradually during the early months of this year, following the sharp decline in the closing months of 1953. Some further improvement appears likely. Indications are that inventories of wool products in manufacturing and distribution channels are now at better working levels. The proportion of wool and blends of wool and other fibers used in some apparel items has increased.

In the United States, wool production is expected to be nearly the same as last year. The shorn wool clip is estimated at less than 1 percent below last year.

Stocks of apparel wool, including CCC holdings, in the U. S. at the end of the first quarter were reported to be about one-tenth below a year earlier. CCC holdings accounted for about 30 percent of the total. Compared with the rate of mill use early this year, however, they were the highest since 1948. Manufacturers' holdings were over one-fourth lower than a year earlier and the lowest since 1940. Relative to the rate of consumption, they were only slightly higher than a year earlier. A large part of the domestic clip has moved out of growers' hands into manufacturing channels. Some CCC wool has been sold in recent months.

Imports of dutiable wool began to decline early last year and during January-May of this year were about half those of a year earlier. Imports of wool entered duty-free for use in the manufacture of floor coverings and certain other items also were lower than a year earlier.

The average of prices received by United States growers at mid-July was slightly above a year earlier. The mid-month average has been a little above the national average support level each month so far this season. Wool prices probably will remain relatively stable the next few months. The average of prices received by domestic producers for shorn wool during the current marketing season probably will not be greatly different from last season.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1953 Feb.	1953 Mar.	1953 Apr.	1953 May	1954 Feb.	1954 Mar.	1954 Apr.	1954 May 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	17.8	16.8	18.9	14.3	6.8	10.0	9.8		52
60's and finer	do.	12.9	11.2	11.8	8.3	3.5	5.9	5.4		58
56's - 60's	do.					1.0	1.1	1.5		
50's - 56's	do.	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	.8	1.2	1.2		57
44's - 50's	do.					.3	.5	.4		
40's - 44's	do.	.6	.4	1.1	.7	.4	.4	.3		27
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.6	2.3	2.9	2.0	.6	.8	.8		28
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.3	.3	.3	.3	.2	.1	.2		67
Duty-free	do.	10.0	14.2	10.3	10.1	7.1	7.2	11.3		110
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	5.5	8.3	4.8	5.5	3.3	3.2	5.1		106
Not finer than 40's	do.	4.5	5.9	5.5	4.6	3.8	4.0	6.2		113
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	38.8	55.6	74.5	88.8	15.6	25.6	35.5		48
60's and finer	do.	27.4	38.6	50.4	58.6	9.5	15.4	20.8		50
56's - 60's	do.					1.6	2.7	4.2		
50's - 56's	do.	5.4	8.0	10.8	13.9	2.0	3.2	4.4		53
44's - 50's	do.					.4	.9	1.3		
40's - 44's	do.	1.2	1.6	2.7	3.4	.5	.9	1.1		41
Not finer than 40's	do.	4.3	6.7	9.5	11.5	1.3	2.1	2.9		31
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.5	.7	1.0	1.3	.3	.4	.7		70
Duty-free	do.	29.6	43.8	54.1	64.2	14.9	22.1	33.4		62
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	14.4	22.7	27.5	33.0	7.0	10.2	15.3		56
Not finer than 40's	do.	15.2	21.1	26.6	31.2	7.9	11.9	18.1		68
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	29.3	27.9	30.0	22.3	10.4	15.8	15.6	15.2	68
Duty-free	do.	14.7	21.3	15.4	15.1	10.4	10.5	16.7	13.5	89
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	4,934	4,904	5,434	5,690	70
60's and finer	do.	3,834	3,912	3,661	3,966	2,548	2,716	2,955	3,079	78
50's up to 60's	do.	2,747	2,657	2,786	2,981	1,642	1,518	1,744	1,854	62
48's and coarser	do.	1,018	1,135	1,025	1,128	744	670	735	757	67
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,447	2,348	2,309	2,080	85
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	65.6	96.4	133.7	166.0	38.4	62.9	84.6	107.4	65
60's and finer	do.	34.0	49.6	67.9	83.8	20.0	33.6	45.4	57.7	69
50's up to 60's	do.	23.2	33.8	47.7	59.7	12.8	20.4	27.4	34.8	58
48's and coarser	do.	8.4	13.0	18.1	22.5	5.6	8.9	11.8	14.9	66
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	27.3	40.5	55.1	64.9	19.6	31.4	40.6	48.9	75
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics			72.7				47.8			66
Government orders	do.		8.2				.5			6
Men's and boys' wear	do.		33.1				25.0			76
Women's and children's wear	do.		31.4				22.3			71
Non-apparel fabrics	do.		13.5				6.9			51
Blanketing	do.		7.2				3.8			53
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		6.3				3.1			49
Total woven fabrics	do.		86.2				54.7			63

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning system and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The rate of carpet wool consumption in the U. S. trended downward during the first 5 months of this year. The total for the period was one-fourth below a year earlier. Stocks of carpet wool at the end of the first quarter were almost a third below a year earlier. Both in total and relative to the rate of consumption, they were the lowest since before World War II.

Recent Developments

Prices in Foreign Markets Continue Relatively Stable

Prices of wool in world markets have fluctuated within relatively narrow ranges during the last two seasons. At the closing auctions of the 1953-54 Australian selling season late in June, prices of fine wool were only slightly below the levels of a year earlier. At the closing auctions in New Zealand, prices of crossbred wools were slightly above a year earlier.

Prices of fine wools at the July auctions at London were slightly lower than they were at the May auctions and at the closing Australian auctions (table 1). Prices of crossbred wools were almost the same as at the May auctions, slightly lower than at the closing New Zealand auctions, but a little higher than a year earlier.

Most Boston Quotations Higher than at Beginning of Season

Boston quotations for most descriptions advanced during the early months of the current marketing season.

Price quotations for Montevideo super 1's (56's) and finer wools rose during April and May but those for super 2's (50's) and lower wools have remained unchanged.

Quotations for Australian shorn wools have been nominal and unchanged since last March. Quotations for Buenos Aires 5's (40's) and 5/6's (40/36's) advanced during April, May, and June.

Price quotations for most domestic territory shorn wools advanced from March until early June. Those for original bag Texas wools advanced during April, May, and early June but have remained unchanged since.

Quotations for most graded fleece shorn wools also advanced from April through early June.

Boston quotations for most scoured imported pulled wools advanced during April but have remained unchanged since then. Those for domestic pulled wools advanced during April and May.

Quotations for most domestic wools early in August were above a year earlier and above loan rates under the current support program (tables 2 and 3).

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), by months, 1952-54

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1952						
January 25	162.2	127.5	95.0	95.0	81.1	81.1
February 8	165.7	133.2	98.5	84.6	82.3	81.1
March 21	147.3	119.2	79.5	63.1	59.6	57.3
April 3	147.5	107.7	72.6	56.2	51.5	51.5
May 16	163.5	122.6	91.1	75.9	66.6	64.2
May 23	166.3	124.5	91.9	76.8	67.5	64.0
July 18	181.1	133.5	104.5	88.2	81.3	78.9
July 25	174.2	127.7	96.4	84.8	80.1	76.6
September 19	164.6	127.5	91.6	82.3	78.8	74.2
September 26	171.7	136.9	99.8	84.7	81.2	76.6
November 28	175.1	140.1	108.6	93.4	88.7	84.0
December 12	177.6	140.2	107.5	88.8	85.3	81.8
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	103.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 24	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	149.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

CCC Selling Prices Revised

Effective since June 28, minimum sales prices for wool acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1952 and 1953 wool price support programs have been the higher of (1) the market value by grade and class as determined from USDA weekly market news reports, or (2) 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates for shorn and pulled wool plus sales commissions.

Prior to that date, wool acquired under the 1952 program was available for sale at the higher of (1) the market value by grade and class as determined each week by USDA or (2) 103 percent of the appraisal value under the 1952 program plus sales commissions.

In general, selling prices for the finer wools based on 1954 loan rates are a little higher and those for the coarser wools a little lower than those based on 1952 loan rates. For many descriptions, however, reported market prices have been higher than prices computed from the 1954 loan rates.

Growers' Prices Up from Earlier in Season

Prices received by growers for shorn wool during the early months of the current marketing season followed the trend of prices in foreign markets. In the middle of March, the last month of the 1953 marketing season, prices received by growers averaged 52.1 cents per pound, grease basis. The average at mid-July was 55.0 cents.

The mid-month averages of prices received have been above the national average support level of 53.2 cents each month since the beginning of the season but have been below a year earlier each month except for July when it was slightly above a year earlier.

It has been announced that if the proposed wool program involving incentive payments designed to encourage increased production and consumption of domestic wool being considered by Congress is enacted in time, it may be put into effect before the end of the current marketing season.

About 25 Million Pounds of Wool Under Loan Under 1954 Program as of July 23

As of July 23, 24.1 million pounds of shorn wool and 0.5 million pounds of pulled wool were under loan under the 1954 price support program for wool. A year earlier, about 22 million pounds of shorn wool were under loan under the 1953 program. Under the 1953 program, prices of pulled wool were supported through purchases during April 1954.

World Wool Production Expected to Increase During 1954-55

The Foreign Agricultural Service forecasts world production of wool during the 1954-55 season at 4,420 million pounds, grease basis (table 4). This production, if realized, would be about 50 million

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 6, 1954 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1953 week ended August 7	1954 week ended Feb. 12	1954 week ended August 6	Percent change week ended August 6, from Average 1947-49	Percent change week ended August 6, from August 7, 1953	Percent change week ended August 6, from Feb. 12, 1954
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	172.5	172.5	175.0	+15.4	+1.4	+1.4
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	152.5	153.0	157.5	+14.9	+3.3	+2.9
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	132.5	135.0	+23.7	+1.9	+1.9
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	122.5	120.0	123.0	+23.0	+0.4	+2.5
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	102.5	106.5	110.0	+22.4	+7.3	+3.3
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	102.5	100.0	+19.8	+2.6	-2.4
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	177.5	181.0	181.0	+17.2	+2.0	0
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	149.0	144.0	152.5	+15.9	+2.3	+5.9
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	116.5	120.0	118.5	+14.8	+1.7	-1.2
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	112.0	113.5	115.0	+18.6	+2.7	+1.3
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	106.0	106.5	108.5	+38.4	+2.4	+1.9
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	101.0	97.5	+32.8	+2.6	-3.5
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	180.0	182.5	185.0	+22.6	+2.8	+1.4
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	167.5	167.5	170.0	+40.5	+1.5	+1.5
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	152.5	157.0	160.0	+44.4	+4.9	+1.9

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1953 and 1954 loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	Loan rates: 1953 program	Loan rates: 1954 program	Boston quotations week ended August 6, 1954
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn			
Territory and Texas			
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.63	1.64	1.70-1.80
Fine, average and good French combing	1.57	1.58	1.65-1.70
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.42	1.44	1.55-1.62
$\frac{1}{2}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.49	1.48	1.55-1.60
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.29	1.28	1.30-1.40
$\frac{1}{4}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.20	1.20-1.26
Low $\frac{1}{4}$ blood	1.06	1.02	1.08-1.12
Common and braid	1.02	.98	.95-1.05
Fleece			
Fine, Delaine	1.64	1.66	1.75-1.87
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.34	1.37	1.50-1.55
$\frac{1}{2}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.44	1.42	1.50-1.55
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.22	1.19	1.16-1.21
$\frac{1}{4}$ blood, good French combing and staple	1.13	1.14	1.12-1.18
Low $\frac{1}{4}$ blood	1.01	1.01	1.07-1.10
Common braid	.97	.94	.95-1.00
Original bag shorn			
Fine Texas			
Good French combing and staple	1.63	1.67	1.80-1.90
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.44	1.48	1.65-1.75
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.32	1.35	1.55-1.65

Compiled from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 4.- Wool, grease basis: Production in specified countries, 1948-54

Continent and country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America							
Canada	11.9	9.8	9.5	6.9	7.7	8.6	9.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	271.3	265-270
Estimated total 2/	302.3	270.5	271.2	272.5	287.5	293.3	284.6
Europe							
United Kingdom	81.0	88.0	89.0	91.8	102.0	105.0	109.0
Eire	12.2	12.0	13.7	14.0	15.4	16.5	16.5
France	29.3	33.9	35.0	40.0	41.9	41.9	43.1
Spain	88.0	82.0	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0	95.0
Portugal	18.0	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.7
Italy	28.9	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0	34.8	35.0
Germany (Western)	21.0	19.2	15.3	15.4	14.8	13.7	12.0
Estimated total 2/ 3/	433.4	448.3	464.8	476.3	495.1	504.1	510.2
Asia							
Iran	29.8	24.7	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5	38.6
Iraq	32.7	26.7	28.7	30.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Syria	12.1	10.0	13.0	15.0	19.6	20.3	21.0
Turkey	75.5	70.9	67.2	72.9	77.9	83.4	85.0
India	53 0	46.2	50.5	52.0	58.0	56.0	58.0
Pakistan	26.0	27.0	27.8	27.2	30.0	30.0	31.0
Estimated total 2/	369.6	346.4	362.3	374.8	399.1	404.0	411.2
South America							
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	410.0
Brazil	45.2	48.5	47.4	51.8	50.7	52.5	53.0
Chile	41.9	46.3	41.9	41.9	44.1	39.7	38.0
Peru	17.2	18.7	19.2	19.6	19.8	20.1	20.3
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	202.5
Estimated total 2/	685.0	707.7	739.5	736.5	727.7	731.7	740.7
Africa							
Algeria	12.0	15.6	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0	26.0
French Morocco	28.0	30.0	33.1	35.3	36.0	31.5	31.0
Tunisia	7.9	8.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	268.0	270.0
Estimated total 2/	279.4	283.0	304.6	323.5	345.6	355.3	353.8
Oceania							
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,092.0	1,080.0	1,300.0	1,260.0	1,300.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	422.0	425.0
Estimated total 2/	1,398.1	1,500.1	1,482.1	1,486.8	1,718.1	1,682.1	1,725.1
Estimated world total 4/	3,770.0	3,890.0	3,970.0	4,050.0	4,370.0	4,370.0	4,420.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 3/ Excludes U. S. S. R. 4/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

pounds higher than the current record of 4,370 million pounds produced in both the 1952-53 and 1953-54 seasons. The Foreign Agricultural Service estimates that the clean equivalent of the 1954-55 production forecast probably would be about 2,550 million pounds. The clean equivalent of 1953-54 production has been estimated at 2,520 million pounds, about one-fifth above prewar.

Wool production is now as high or higher than prewar in most countries. Among the major exceptions are the United States, Canada, and Western Germany.

Increases over 1953-54 are in prospect for each of the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere, except Uruguay. The expected increases range from 2 million pounds or about 1 percent for the Union of South Africa to about 40 million pounds or about 3 percent for Australia. Production in Uruguay is expected to be about the same as in 1953-54.

The world supply of wool during 1953-54 was slightly smaller than that of the previous season. Production was about the same, but stocks at the beginning of the season were slightly lower. Total stocks in consuming countries were higher than a year earlier, but this increase was more than offset by the decline in the major exporting countries.

Table 5.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, and shorn wool production, United States, 1940-54

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425
1948	28,649	8 09	231,770
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373
1953	27,756	8.30	230,343
1954	26,785	8.56	229,371

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year.

Domestic Shorn Wool Clip Only Slightly Lower; Average Weight Per Fleece a New Record

Shorn wool production this year is estimated at 229.4 million pounds, about 1 million pounds less than in 1953 (table 5). The number of sheep shorn is estimated at 26,785 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. However, the average weight per fleece reached a record high of 8.56 pounds and compared with 8.30 pounds last year.

Production in the "Native" or "Fleece" wool states is estimated at 67.3 million pounds compared with 68.0 million last year. The average fleece weight was 7.71 pounds, a little higher than last year when it was 7.58 pounds.

The shorn wool clip in the 13 western sheep States is estimated at 162.1 million pounds, only about 200 thousand pounds less than last year. The number of sheep shorn is estimated at 18,057 thousand head, about 4 percent fewer than last year, but the average weight per fleece is estimted at 8.98 pounds compared with 8.64 in 1953.

Exports from the Southern Hemisphere During 1953-54 Lower than Year Earlier

Exports of wool from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the 1953-54 season were up slightly from a year earlier. However, shipments from Argentina and Uruguay were substantially lower and the total for the 5 major Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries was below a year earlier (table 6). The total for the 5 countries for the season also is expected to be down from 1952-53 since less wool is available for export.

The slightly larger exports from Australia early in the season reflected earlier marketings and the larger proportion of greasy wool in total exports. Production was slightly lower, and home consumption was up a little. Larger clips made possible the increases in exports from New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. The reduced exports from the two South American countries reflect the slower movement of current clip wool early in the season and the much lower stocks at the beginning of the season. A large quantity of 1951-52 clip wool was sold early in the 1952-53 season in both countries. A slight reduction in production has also been a factor in Argentina.

Stocks of Apparel Wool in the United States at Beginning of the Season Lower than Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that stocks of apparel wool (foreign wools finer than 40's and all domestic wools) held by the Commodity Credit Corporation, dealers, and manufacturers at the end of the first quarter totaled 149 million pounds, scoured basis (table 7). This includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, and stocks in bond, but excludes wool held for the account of

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54 seasons through April 1/

Exporting country	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia	762	908	942
New Zealand 2/	419	367	357
Union of South Africa 2/	201	207	217
Argentina	26	317	95
Uruguay	8	154	55

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through May.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

or by growers except that held on consignment for growers. CCC holdings accounted for about 30 percent of the total or about 43 percent of the domestic wool. Total holdings were about 14 million pounds below a year earlier.

Holdings of foreign wool were about 19 million pounds lower than a year earlier and down for the third successive year. Stocks of domestic wool, however, were about 5 million pounds higher than a year earlier and up for the second year in succession.

Manufacturers' holdings, though 22 million pounds or 27 percent lower than a year earlier, were equivalent to about 12.1 weeks of consumption at the January-March rate. A year earlier holdings represented the equivalent of 10.9 weeks of consumption. Combined CCC and dealer holdings were equivalent to about 18.7 weeks of consumption as against 11.1 weeks a year earlier. Total holdings were equivalent to 30.8 weeks of consumption compared with 22.0 a year earlier, the highest ratio since 1948.

CCC Holdings as of May 31 Up a Little From a Year Earlier

As of May 31 of this year, Commodity Credit Corporation holdings of wool acquired under the price support program amounted to about 122.6 million pounds, actual weight, or probably about 63 million pounds, clean. A year earlier, CCC held about 100.6 million pounds, actual weight, or probably in the neighborhood of 45 million pounds, clean.

The breakdown of holdings as of May 31, by programs, is shown in table 8.

CCC acquired title to 100.6 million pounds, actual weight, under the 1952 program and 36.4 million pounds under the 1953 program.

Table 7.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-54 1/

Year	Privately owned						Owned by United States Government		Total reported stocks 2/	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 3/			
	Manufacturers		Dealers		Total								
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	C.C.C. Domestic	D.S.C. Foreign		Manufacturers	Dealers	Total privately owned	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average	36,118	4/19,891	40,470	4/12,696	76,588	4/32,587			4/109,175	10.7	10.1	20.8	20.8
1940	28,653	28,431	22,353	15,377	51,006	43,808			94,814	11.0	7.3	18.3	18.3
1941	29,749	50,258	14,517	20,058	44,266	70,316			114,582	9.0	3.9	12.9	12.9
1942	41,242	5/76,936	25,539	5/27,420	66,781	5/104,356		113,355	284,492	11.1	4.9	16.0	26.5
1943	40,533	64,936	19,429	21,512	59,962	86,448		168,378	314,788	8.8	3.4	12.2	26.3
1944	23,160	88,444	9,295	45,531	32,455	133,975	83,400	157,746	407,576	9.5	4.7	14.2	34.8
1945	22,833	116,525	11,545	37,421	34,378	153,946	125,600	35,553	349,477	10.9	3.8	14.7	27.2
1946	16,998	122,225	19,025	67,230	36,023	189,455	195,900		421,378	12.1	7.5	19.6	36.6
1947	32,200	111,995	18,979	47,654	51,179	159,649	193,400		404,228	12.4	5.7	18.1	34.8
1948	52,720	94,633	24,186	35,648	76,906	130,281	139,265		346,452	14.1	5.7	19.8	33.0
1949	37,945	57,712	19,760	17,160	57,705	74,872	66,744		199,321	14.6	5.7	20.3	30.5
1950	36,300	54,824	19,105	16,058	55,405	70,882	16,948		143,235	10.7	4.2	14.9	16.9
1951	28,510	83,360	7,042	11,292	35,552	94,652	6/		7/130,204	14.7	2.4	17.1	17.1
1952	20,848	54,795	34,836	20,352	55,684	75,147	6/		7/130,831	12.5	9.2	21.7	21.7
1953	30,643	49,822	8/68,158	14,477	8/98,801	64,299	8/		7/163,100	10.9	11.1	8/22.0	22.0
1954	24,208	34,220	8/79,554	11,129	8/103,762	45,349	8/		7/149,111	12.1	18.7	8/30.8	30.8

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4.
2/ Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers.
3/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.
4/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.
5/ Excludes 36's, 40's foreign wool.
6/ Negligible.
7/ Does not include wool held by CCC for Department of Defense.
8/ Wool purchased by Commodity Credit Corporation through the loan program is included in dealer stocks.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

Table 8.- CCC holdings of wool acquired under 1952 and 1953 programs, May 31, 1954

	1952 program	1953 program	Total
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Shorn			
Greasy	79,169,885	30,549,373	109,719,258
Scoured	752,729	153,632	906,361
Total shorn	79,922,614	30,703,005	110,625,619
Pulled			
Greasy	3,704,850	1,821,722	5,526,572
Scoured	2,578,416	3,886,986	6,465,402
Total pulled	6,283,266	5,708,708	11,991,974
Total	86,205,880	36,411,713	122,617,593

From Commodity Stabilization Service.

Stocks of Carpet Wool Down from a Year Earlier

Dealer and manufacturer holdings of carpet wool ("named" wools and other foreign wools not finer than 40's which, if for use in the manufacture of floor coverings and other specified items, are enterable free of duty) at the end of the first quarter were reported at about 29 million pounds, scoured basis (table 9). This was almost one-third below a year earlier.

Holdings of such wool both in total and relative to the rate of consumption during the first quarter were the lowest since before World War II.

United States Imports of Dutiable Wool Down Sharply from Early Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool during the early months of this year, though relatively stable from month to month, were substantially lower than a year earlier. During 1953 imports trended downward over the year. The total quantity imported during the first 5 months of this year, 71 million pounds, actual weight, was about half that of the same period last year.

The quantity imported during January-May was equivalent to about 42 percent of reported consumption. During the first 5 months of 1953, when mills used 1½ times as much apparel wool as early this year, imports were equivalent to about 55 percent of the quantity consumed.

For the year 1953, imports were one-third lower than during the previous year and were equivalent to 46 percent of reported mill consumption. During 1950-52, they averaged 66 percent of reported consumption.

Table 9.- Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-54 1/

Year	Held by		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Dealers	Manufacturers		Dealers	Manufacturers	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average 3/	3,249	28,642	31,891	1.7	15.2	16.9
1940	1,726	38,572	40,298	.9	19.5	20.4
1941	665	36,101	36,766	.3	14.4	14.7
1942	14,019	61,821	75,840	10.0	44.3	54.3
1943	9,093	38,563	47,656	13.8	58.4	72.2
1944	2,202	27,231	29,433	2.7	33.8	36.5
1945	2,082	46,389	48,471	2.5	55.4	57.9
1946	7,918	62,216	70,134	3.4	26.6	30.0
1947	12,297	81,207	93,504	3.9	25.7	29.6
1948	14,727	68,001	82,728	3.7	17.1	20.8
1949	12,560	49,432	61,992	3.2	12.5	15.7
1950	5,298	49,207	54,505	1.3	12.4	13.7
1951	4,442	40,542	44,984	1.3	12.0	13.3
1952	6,214	27,824	34,038	2.6	11.7	14.3
1953	8,596	33,306	41,902	2.8	10.7	13.5
1954 4/	4,578	24,829	29,407	1.9	10.3	12.2

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Includes stocks held on consignment and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation.
2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.
3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.
4/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

United States Imports of Duty-Free Wools Also Down Sharply from Last Year

Imports of wool entered duty-free for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, heavy fulled lumbermens' socks, and knit or felt boots during January-May amounted to about 62 million pounds, actual weight. This was about two-thirds the quantity imported a year earlier and slightly less than the quantity consumed. During the same months last year, imports of these wools were just about equal to reported consumption.

World Consumption

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that world consumption during the first quarter of this year was about 5 percent lower than that during the previous quarter and about 9 percent lower than a year earlier. The estimates are based on data for 11 of the major consuming countries. Declines were indicated for most of the reporting countries.

Indications are that the rate of consumption during the second quarter was as high as or slightly higher than that of the first quarter.

World consumption of wool during 1953 is estimated at 2,602 million pounds, clean, about 11 percent more than in 1952 (table 10). Consumption increased over 1952 in most of the major consuming countries. The world total last year was only 3 percent below the record of 1950, when it was almost one-fifth above production. A little less wool was consumed than was produced during 1951 and 1952, but in 1953 consumption again exceeded production.

The rate of consumption during the first half of last year was at a record rate and was about 30 percent above a year earlier when it was at the low of a sharp decline. During the second half of 1953, the rate of consumption declined somewhat.

Rate of Apparel Wool Consumption in the United States Recovering Slowly from Sharp Recession Late Last Year

Woolen and worsted mills used about 107 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool during the first 5 months of this year. This was about two-thirds the quantity of a year earlier when the rate of consumption was at the peak of an upward movement which had started during the second quarter of 1952 (table 11).

Table 10.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1947-54

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Production 1/	2,142	2,135	2,185	2,245	2,323	2,351	2,512	3/2,520
Consumption	2,447	2,571	2,448	2,681	2,277	2,343	2/2,602	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary. 3/ Foredast.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 11.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-54

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,663	4,934	4,904	5,434	5,690							
Carpet	2,460	2,447	2,348	2,309	2,080							
Total	7,123	7,381	7,252	7,743	7,770							

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The rate of consumption declined sharply during the second half of last year, particularly during the fourth quarter when it was the lowest for that time of year since 1937. It increased slowly during the early months of this year, but during May it was still one-fourth below a year earlier. The average rate during the 7 months ending with May was lower than that for any comparable period since 1937-38.

Consumption during January-May was at an annual rate of 265 million pounds. The rate during the last 7 months of the year would need to average about two-fifths higher than that of May to bring the total for the year up to the 359 million pounds used in 1953.

The declines relative to last year by grade categories were as follows:

60's and finer - 31 percent
50's up to 60's - 42 percent
48's and coarser - 34 percent

During May the rate of consumption of 60's and finer wool was 22 percent lower than early last year; that of 50's up to 60's was 38 percent lower; and that of 48's and coarser was 33 percent lower (table 12).

During January-May, the rate of mill use on the worsted system averaged 37 percent lower than during the same months of 1953 (table 13). On the woolen system it was 26 percent lower than a year earlier. The rate on the worsted system during May was 33 percent lower than that of a year earlier while that on the woolen system was down 24 percent.

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Declined Early This Year

The use of carpet wool trended downward over the first 5 months of this year (table 11). The total through May, 49 million pounds, scoured basis, was about 25 percent below that of early last year. The rate of consumption during the last 7 months of this year would have to average almost one-third higher than that for May or about 15 percent higher than the average for January-May to bring the total for the year up to the 136 million pounds used last year.

Raw wool accounted for about 75 percent of the fiber used in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn on the woolen and worsted systems during January-May of this year (table 14). Last year the proportion was 74 percent.

Production of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs totaled about 25 million square yards during January-May of this year, about one-fourth less than a year earlier (table 15).

Production of Woolen and Worsted Fabric Declined Sharply During First Quarter

Output of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool by weight) during the first quarter of this year, 54.7 million linear yards, was more than one-third below that of a year earlier (table 16). The rate of production during the quarter was almost one-fifth below that of the last quarter of 1953.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-May 1946-54

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
60's and finer	54.2	60.1	63.8	54.6	56.9	56.1	54.5	51.0	53.8
50's and up to 60's	31.4	26.9	25.4	34.6	33.5	33.6	33.4	35.8	32.4
48's and coarser	14.4	13.0	10.8	10.8	9.6	10.3	12.1	13.2	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-May 1946-54

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Worsted	57.8	63.0	66.1	60.6	67.6	63.5	52.3	58.1	54.3
Woolen	42.2	37.0	33.9	39.4	32.4	36.5	47.7	41.9	45.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-54

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	73.5	75.1	76.2	75.2	74.8								
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2								
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.3	7.5	8.3	6.7	7.3								
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.2	14.4	12.3	14.5	14.8								
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1
1954	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.9								

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Production of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1950-54 1/

Month	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
January	6,635	7,544	5,252	6,552	4,758
February	6,802	7,297	4,973	6,589	5,076
March	8,073	7,286	5,445	7,227	5,663
April	7,087	6,819	5,861	6,929	5,024
May	6,998	5,411	5,051	5,436	4,413
June	8,129	4,858	3,057	5,388	
July	4,061	1,849	2,512	3,111	
August	7,153	3,633	4,562	5,017	
September	7,689	3,615	5,775	5,447	
October	7,942	4,436	7,254	5,867	
November	8,024	3,976	5,904	4,353	
December	7,148	3,917	6,442	4,921	
Total	85,741	60,641	62,088	66,837	

1/ Includes woven Axminster, Chenille, Velvet, and Wilton type fabrics but excludes hooked, tufted, rag or automobile carpets and rugs.

From Carpet Institute, Inc.

Production of both apparel and non-apparel woven fabric was below both the previous quarter and a year earlier. Output of apparel fabric, which accounted for seven-eighths of the total yardage, was only about two-thirds that of a year earlier. Output of non-apparel fabric was about half that of the first quarter of 1953.

Government orders accounted for just over one percent of total apparel fabric production compared with about 11 percent early last year (table 17).

The yardage of men's and boys' apparel fabric produced was about one-fourth below that of early 1953 while that of women's and children's clothing fabric was down almost one-third.

Cuttings of Most Items of Men's Tailored Clothing Below Early Last Year

The rates of cuttings of men's tailored clothing during January-June of this year were lower than a year earlier (table 18). Declines in the rates relative to last year ranged from about 4 percent for trousers to 26 percent for overcoats and topcoats.

Table 16.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-March 1951-54 1/

Fabric	1951	1952	1953	1954	Percentage change 1954 from 1953
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	99,797	86,192	86,152	54,666	-36.6
Apparel	85,763	74,721	72,735	47,843	-34.2
Government orders	10,521	23,093	8,192	535	-93.5
Other than Government orders	75,242	51,628	64,543	47,308	-26.7
Men's and boys'	39,451	24,121	33,132	2/25,048	-24.4
Woolen	13,323	10,851	14,506	8,667	-40.3
Worsted	26,128	13,270	18,626	15,052	-19.2
Women's and children's	35,791	27,507	31,411	2/22,260	-29.1
Woolen	27,339	22,712	26,719	15,595	-34.2
Worsted	8,452	4,795	4,692	3,980	-15.2
Non-apparel	14,034	11,471	13,417	6,823	-49.2
Blanketing	5,116	6,962	7,246	3,726	-48.6
Government orders	601	2,654	2,552	798	-68.7
Other than Government orders	4,515	4,308	4,694	2,928	-37.6
Other non-apparel	8,918	4,509	6,171	3,097	-49.8
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	3,292	2,007	2,248	2,549	+13.4

1/ Principally wool reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Percent of woolen and worsted apparel fabric and blanketing produced toward Government orders, 1950-54

Type of fabric	1950	1951	1952	1953				1954, 1st quarter
				1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	2.6	32.8	20.7	11.3	4.8	4.5	6.6	1.1
Blanketing	1/	52.6	35.3	35.2	25.4	21.8	32.1	21.4

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

For those items for which information as to fiber content is available, the proportions cut from fabric containing 50 percent or more wool were larger than last year (table 19). For summer suits, the proportion cut from such fabric in 1954 was 34.3 percent compared with only 28.2 percent the year before. Cuttings from wool fabric increased 14 percent relative to last year. The proportion for separate dress and sports trousers was 29.1 percent compared with 27.5 percent in 1953. Two percent more pairs of trousers were cut from wool fabric early this year than last.

Cuttings of Most Items of Women's Outerwear Above Early Last Year

More coats, unit-priced dresses, and skirts but fewer suits were cut during the first half of this year than a year earlier (table 20). The increases ranged from 2 percent for unit-priced dresses to 7 percent for coats. However, 7 percent fewer suits were produced early this year.

Rayon and acetate fabrics accounted for the same or a smaller proportion of the total for those categories for which information as to fiber content is available (table 21). Other fabrics, including wool, accounted for 48.6 percent of the unit-priced dresses compared with 44.0 percent a year earlier.

Table 18.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1952-54

Type of garment	Number of garments cut: 1952 (26 weeks)	1953 (26 weeks)	1954 (26 weeks)	Percentage change: 1954 from 1952	1954 from 1953
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	9,515	11,973.9	9,948	+4.6	-16.9
Regular - weight	6,997	8,600.9	6,782	-3.1	-21.2
50 percent or more wool	6,436	7,793.1	---		
Other	561	807.8	---		
Summer - weight	2,518	3,373.0	3,166	+25.7	-6.1
50 percent or more wool	713	952.5	1,086	+52.3	+14.0
Man-made fibers	1,728	2,317.6	1,969	+13.9	-15.0
Other	77	102.9	111	+44.2	+7.9
Separate dress and sport trousers	23,173	29,632.4	28,584	+23.4	-3.5
50 percent or more wool	6,723	8,161.4	8,304	+23.5	+1.7
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	15,213	18,706.6)	20,280	+23.3	-5.6
Chiefly cotton	1,237	2,710.4)			
Overcoats and topcoats	2,271	2,778.7	2,049	-9.8	-26.3

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1951-54

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits				
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	93.8	92.0	90.6	---
Other	6.2	8.0	9.4	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	36.8	28.3	28.2	34.3
Man-made fibers	58.9	68.6	68.7	62.2
Other	4.3	3.1	3.1	3.5
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	29.4	29.0	27.5	29.1
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	65.4	65.7	63.4)	70.9
Chiefly cotton	5.2	5.3	9.1)	

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1953-54

Type of garment	1953	1954	Percentage change 1954 from 1953
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Coats	11,045	11,792	+6.8
Suits	7,985	7,449	-6.7
Rayon and acetate fabric	4,738	4,419	-6.7
Other fabrics	3,247	3,030	-6.7
Skirts	34,392	35,916	+4.4
Rayon and acetate fabric	12,564	---	
Other fabrics	21,828	---	
Unit-priced dresses	77,715	79,374	+2.1
Rayon and acetate fabric	43,501	40,774	-6.3
Other fabrics	34,214	38,600	+12.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June, 1953-54

Type of garment	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent
Suits	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate fabric	59.3	59.3
Other fabrics	40.7	40.7
Unit-priced dresses	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate fabric	56.0	51.4
Other fabrics	44.0	48.6

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

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